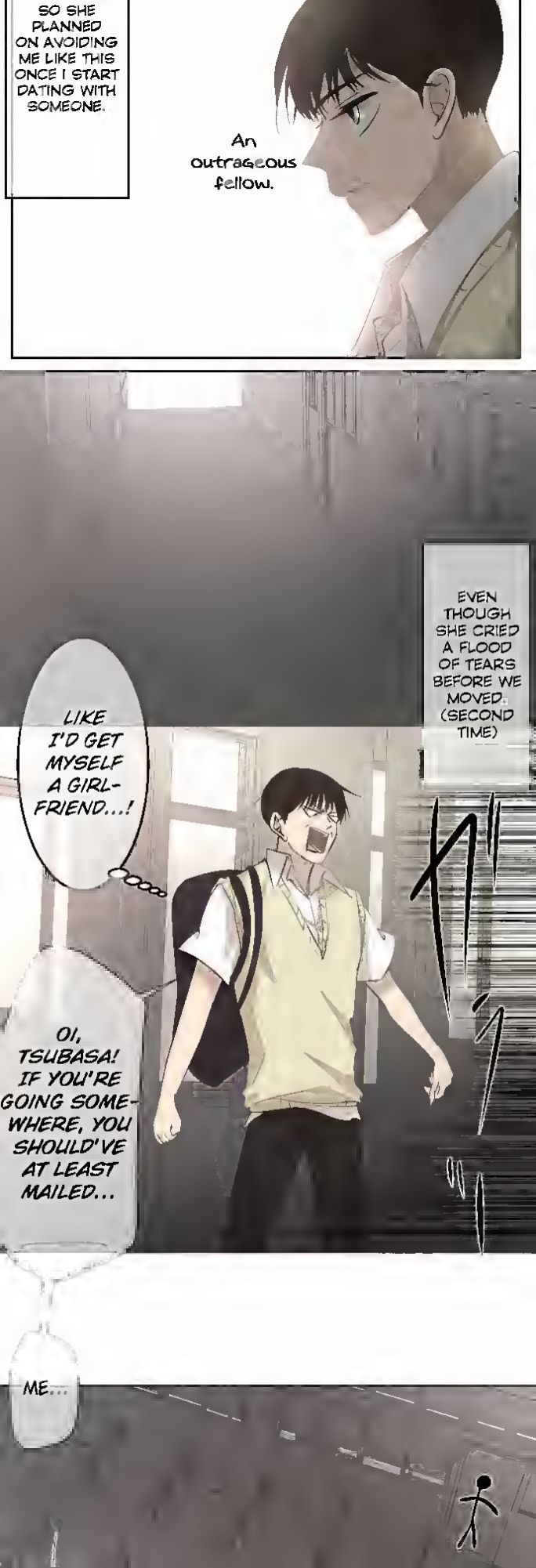
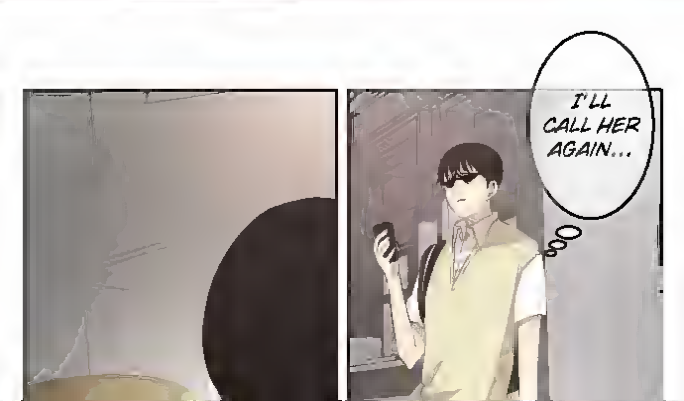
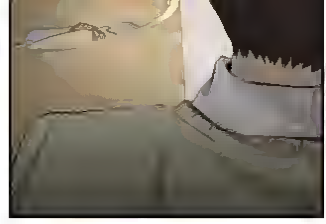
BZZ
BZZ

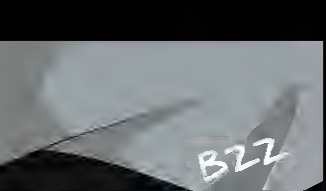
SHE'S NOT PICKING UP?
My calls?!
I BET SHE'S JUST READING TOO MUCH INTO THIS AND WENT OFF SOMEWHERE.
She's probably in the classroom
ICHINOSE-KUN MIGHT ACTUALLY GET A GIRLFRIEND THIS TIME
I'M GOING HOME NOW.


SO SHE PLANNED ON AVOIDING ME LIKE THIS ONCE I START DATING WITH SOMEONE.
An outrageous fellow.
EVEN THOUGH SHE CRIED A FLOOD OF TEARS BEFORE WE MOVED. (SECOND TIME)
LIKE I'D GET MYSELF A GIRL-FRIEND...!
OI, TSUBASA! IF YOU'RE GOING SOME-WHERE, YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST MAILED...
ME...

SIGH!
She's NOT Heeeere


I'LL CALL HER AGAIN...

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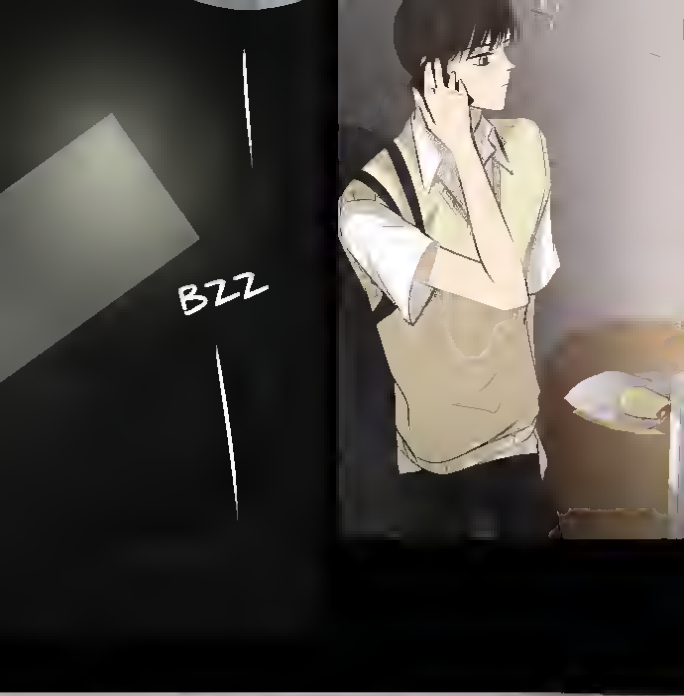
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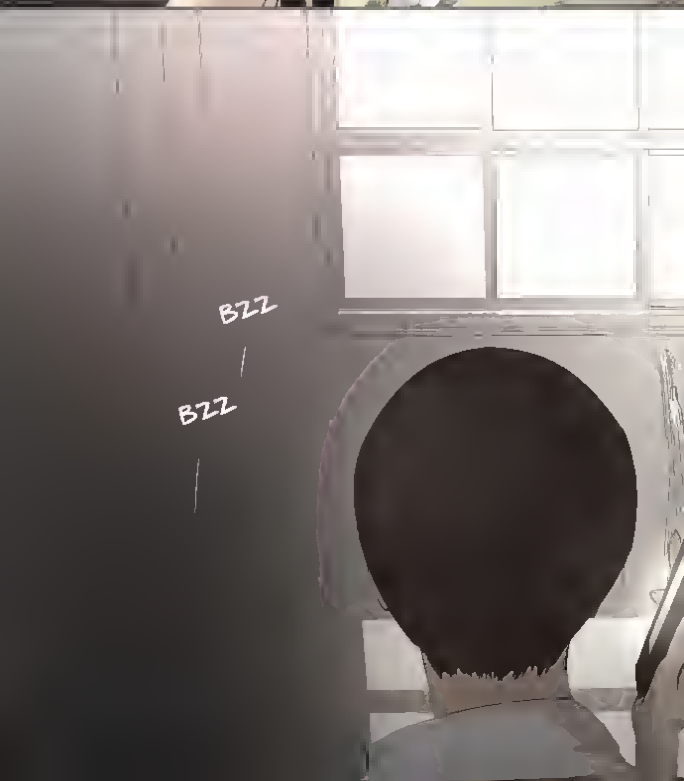
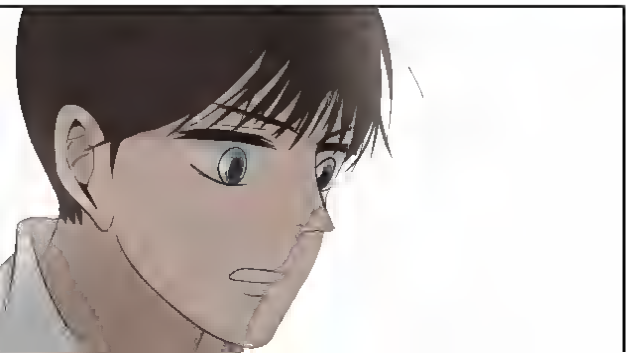

BZZ
BZZ

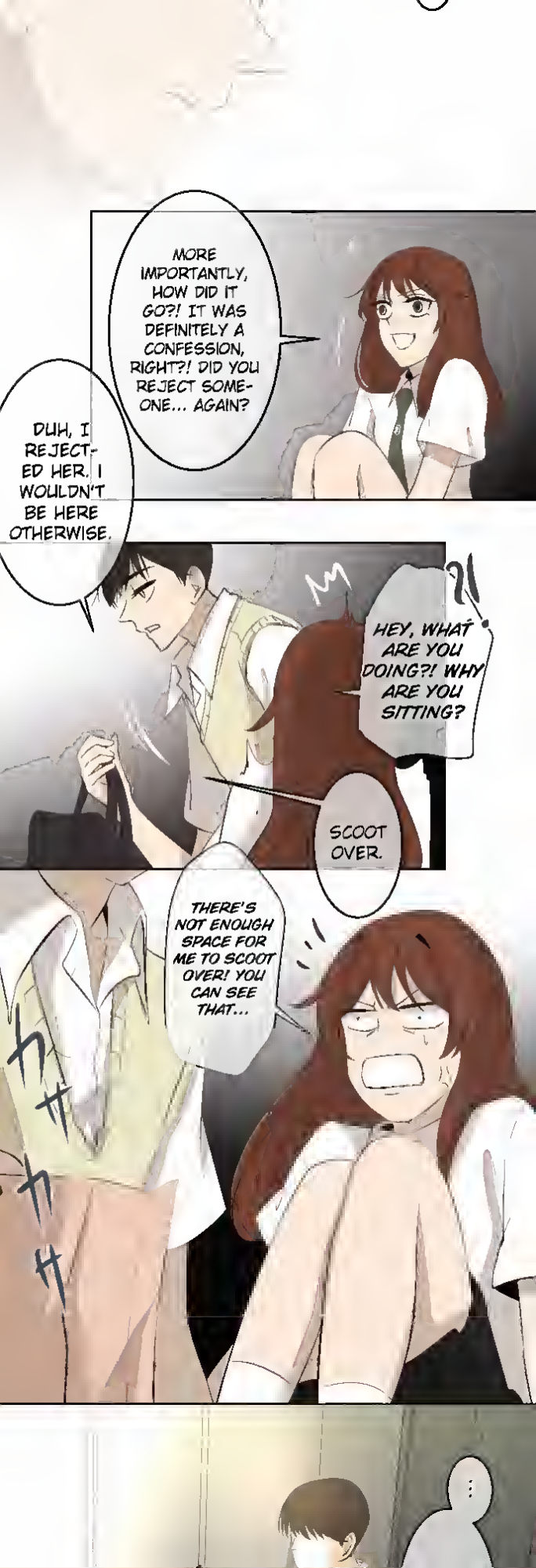
WHY DO I HEAR VIBRATIONS FROM THE LOCKER ...?!
DON'T TELL ME--
BZZ
BZZ

HEY, GREAT JOB OUT THERE.



...YOU
WHY IN THE WORLD ARE YOU HIDING LIKE A SECRET ITEM?!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?!
UH, WELL...
I GOT LOST...
HOW DID YOU GET LOST THAT YOU ENDED UP INSIDE A LOCKER? HEY, TEACH ME HOW TO GET LOST LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY. I WAS ACTUALLY RETURNING THE COOKIES INSIDE THE LOCKER.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE INSIDE THE LOCKER.

YEAH. WELL, I WASN'T SURE YET IF I SHOULD TAKE THEM HOME OR NOT...
IT'S DEFINITELY RUDE TO HOTARU, SO--
WHAT... DO I DO?
THAT'S...
WHAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT...
...


MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DID IT GO?! IT WAS DEFINITELY A CONFESSION, RIGHT?! DID YOU REJECT SOMEONE... AGAIN?
DUH, I REJECTED HER. I WOULDN'T BE HERE OTHERWISE.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHY ARE YOU SITTING?
SCOOT OVER.
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH SPACE FOR ME TO SCOOT OVER! YOU CAN SEE THAT...
...

WHAT ARE YOU...

A
h

WERE

YOU THAT HUNGRY...?
I mean, you're always hungry, but still.
@#$@$%@#
WHAT?
@#$@$@?!
...WHAT?
...?!

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'RE GIVING ME ALL OF THE LEFTOVER COOKIES?

YOU'RE TOO IMPATIENT.

WE JUST TRANS-FERRED HERE.

YOU WON'T MAKE FRIENDS QUICKLY.

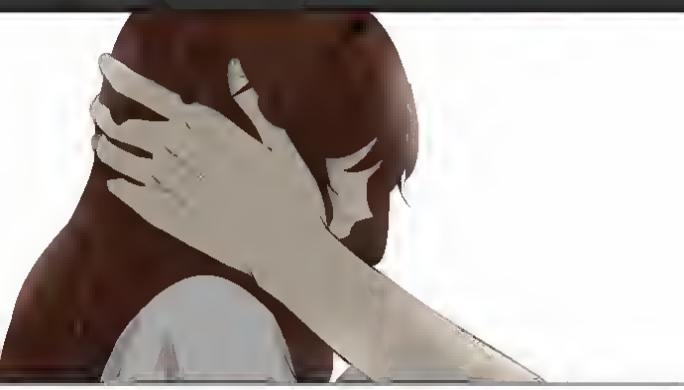
YOU'RE PLENTY NICE (BUT A GORILLA), AND YOU'VE GIVEN ENOUGH EFFORT (IN THE WRONG AS-PECTS THOUGH).

DON'T GET SO DOWN JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE LEFTOVER COOKIES.

AND BESIDES...

IT'S ALRIGHT EVEN IF YOU DON'T MAKE FRIENDS.

'CAUSE I'M HERE.



YOU'RE WRONG.

YOU'RE WRONG, YUU.

I'M NOT AS NICE AS YOU THINK.

I HAVEN'T GIVEN EFFORT ON ANYTHING.

I WAS JUST BEING OBSTINATE.

IF I DON'T WANT OTHERS TO MISUNDERSTAND US, THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STAY AWAY FROM YOU.

I SAID I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS, BUT HAVE I ACTUALLY MADE EFFORT TO DO SO?

IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT MURAKAMI-SAN SAID.

I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YUU.

18: Contradiction

Story & Art: Aoi Umi
TL & TS: amplified
tumblr | aijiishibashi
PR & CL: Dupe

To Be Continued